

We have carefully considered the concerns that we were raised by several committee members concerning the expanded schedule of public input forums. It is the duty of the chair to set the meetings and while we appreciate the extra burden this schedule will place on the committee, we will be moving forward with the public input sessions as scheduled and in keeping with the current format.

The public has raised important issues regarding the number of evening meetings to increase public input. We have heard those requests and believe firmly that additional meetings are necessary. Under the new schedule staff will have just enough time to notice these meetings and do sufficient public outreach. In order to make our proposed deadlines we need to move forward with these meetings now.

As for changing the format, these eight meetings, one in each council district, are designed for community input. Following the input meetings, we are scheduling several additional full committee meetings to be held in the evening, including evening meetings on August 9th, August 23rd, September 6th and September 13th. During each of these meetings we will be taking up committee recommendations which will give the Committee time to dialogue on the specific work plan issues with the public. We will not be taking any full committee votes on recommendations before the meeting on August 9th.

We have distributed a new work plan to reflect all these changes. We know that there will be meetings that you may not be able to attend. We also know that this will increase the burden for each of you and we thank you ahead of time for your patience and understanding.

John Davies, Chair, and Judge James Milliken, Vice-Chair